

Montana Sportsmen ALLIANCE

Voice of Reason on Montana Fish and Wildlife Issues

To the Senate Natural Resources Committee:

RE: SB-237-AN ACT REQUIRING APPROVAL OF THE BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS FOR CERTAIN LAND PURCHASES; TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, LAND PURCHASES MAY NOT RESULT IN A NET GAIN IN LAND OWNERSHIP

POSITION: Montana Sportsmen's Alliance hereby goes on record **ADAMANTLY**
OPPOSING this bill based on the following reasons:

- There are landowners who want to sell their properties to the State to provide the people of Montana long term recreational opportunities and to protect the property from development.
- Publicly owned lands provide a very positive economic impact for local communities and the state.
- With 2.9 million acres of public land presently landlocked by private lands, additional state lands are needed for Montana's growing population.
- The legislature has failed to move forward a bill to allow "corner crossing" which would have opened up over 866,000 acres of previously inaccessible public land which again increases crowding and limits recreational opportunities. The number one issue for sportsmen is ACCESS and this bill restricts future access.

Once again we would like to state our **OPPOSITION** for SB 237

Montana Sportsmen Alliance Leadership Group

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